[20th August 1955

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION.

Damage of turbine in Madurai Thermal Station.

* 7 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a turbine was damaged on 23rd July 1955 in the Madurai Thermal Station;

(*b*) if so, the cost of the turbine in question and the extent of damage; and

(*c*) whether any enquiry was conducted to find out the cause of the damage?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir. The 10 Mega Watts Turbo-alternator set in the power station broke down on 24th July 1955.

" (*b*) The cost of the set is Rs. 9.33 lakhs. The damage is confined mainly to the bearings of the machine and to some other minor parts and the cost of repairing the same is estimated at Rs. 10,000.

" (*c*) The breakdown of the set was due to failure of oil supply to the bearings, the reason for which is being investigated."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government are aware that the failure of oil supply was due to the fact that the officials sent away the attender for more than six hours continuously from the spot? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, the matter being under investigation, I haven't got information on the point raised by the hon. Member."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, are Government aware that without the presence of Engineers the turbines cannot be worked and handled, that there were no Engineers in charge of the turbine station at that particular time, that the damage was caused on account of the fact that two turbines were worked simultaneously for the first time, that the officers wanted to put the whole responsibility on the workers and in view of all this will the Hon. Minister be pleased to make an open enquiry into the matter to find out the people responsible for this great loss? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, I have already stated that the whole matter is under investigation and that the investigation report has not reached the Government yet. In the absence of a detailed report, I am unable to answer the allegations made here."

20th August 1955]

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Sir, I do not propose to make any allegations, but may I suggest to the Government in view of the serious damage, to consider the question of appointing an Enquiry Committee consisting of the District Collector and a Specialist to investigate into the matter by taking evidence from low-paid workers of the station? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, once we get a report, all that can be done."

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" Questions are over."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—PRIVILEGE MOTION *RE* CHARGE-SHEET AGAINST AN AIDED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER FOR HIS CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST LEADERS.

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" I have received notice of a Privilege Motion from Sri M. Kalyanasundaram. The hon. Member will now read his motion."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Sir, I wish to raise the following matter of privilege under Rule 179 and to move that the same may be referred to the Committee of Privileges :—

' The District Educational Officer, Salem, has issued a charge-sheet under Madras Educational Rule 154 to one Sri K. Chellappan, a teacher of the Amirtha Vilas Aided Elementary School, Rasipuram. A copy of the charge-sheet is enclosed herewith. The first charge reads as follows :—

" that he is having close contact with top-rank Communist leaders like Sri M. Kalyanasundaram and Sri P. Jeevanandam who visited his house on 7th August 1953 and 22nd September 1953 for discussing the Party affairs." '

" A contact with us, members of this House, is considered as an offence meriting cancellation of teaching certificate. If we have to discharge our duties effectively as members of this House, it is but proper that we visit different places and institutions and come in contact with people of different walks of life, so that we can gain first hand knowledge of peoples' problems. Further, the Communist Party to which we have the honour to belong, is a perfectly lawful organization and is one of the main Opposition Parties of this House. Our Party is recognized as one of the All-India parties, by the Election Commission.

" Judged from these standpoints, the charge made by the District Educational Officer, Salem, is highly disparaging and calculated to bring down the prestige of this House in the estimation of the people.